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REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action rejected claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,378 to Angal et al ("Angal"). The Office action rejected claims 2, 5, and 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Angal in view of "The Object Revolution How COM technology is changing the way we do business" by Gani et al. ("Gani"). The Office action also rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Angal in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,868,832 to Marrington et al ("Marrington"). Further, the Office action rejected claims 48-49, 51, and 54-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Angal in view of "Solstice Enterprise Manager Administrative Guide" from Sun Microsystem Inc. ("Guide"). Still further, the Office action rejected claims 50 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Angal in view of Guide and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,833 to Dea et al ("Dea"). The Office action objected to claim 58 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and indicated it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Finally, the Office action indicated that claims 44-47 and 52-53 are allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 44-47, 52 and 53 are allowed and indicating that the subject matter recited in claim 58 is allowable. By present amendment, claims 1-3, 5-8, 23-30, 48-51 and 58 have been canceled and claim 54 has been amended. Claim 54 has been amended to include the

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subject matter of allowable claim 58, and claim 58 was canceled as duplicative. Applicants submit that all the pending claims now include the allowable subject matter indicated.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 44-47, 52, 53, and 54-57 are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is in good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,

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